

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FACT SHEET

(pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

Applicant: San Emidio Agrigate, Inc.
P.O. Box 40
Empire, Nevada 89405

Permit: NEV2002506

Location: Lagomarsino Ranch
U.S. Highway 95 A
Yerington, Lyon County, Nevada 89423

Latitude 37° 00' 36" N
Longitude 119° 10' 00" W

Township 13 N, Range 25 E, Sections 2, 3, 10, & 11 MDB&M

General: The Applicant has requested a permit to land apply "Class B" biosolids, sewage sludge, to agricultural land on the 728 acre Lagomarsino Ranch, north of Yerington, Nevada. The biosolids application fields are located between the Walker River and Campbell Ditch. A flood control levee has been constructed adjacent to the River. The permit will restrict the land application to appropriate portions of the ranch; i.e. biosolids cannot be applied within thirty-three feet of waters of the U.S., biosolids cannot be applied to land if the depth to groundwater is less than three feet below ground surface, etc.

The proposed permit will authorize the Applicant to land apply bulk biosolids from the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) only. TMWRF is responsible for the biosolids pathogen reduction and analyses, i.e. metals, nutrients, etc. The Applicant will be responsible for determining biosolids application rates and complying with the site restrictions. Biosolids applied to the land surface shall be incorporated into the soil within six hours after application to the land.

The Class B biosolids pathogen reduction requirements are not as stringent as the Class A requirements, therefore, there are more restrictions for the harvesting of crops and the grazing of animals on Class B application sites. Only non-food crops may be grown on land that has had Class B biosolids applied within the past three years. Animals shall not be grazed on the land for 30 days after application of biosolids.

To qualify as pollutant concentration (PC) biosolids, the arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, and zinc concentrations must be below the pollutant concentration limits established by Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 503 (40 CFR Part 503). PC biosolids are exempt from the cumulative pollutant loading rate requirements, therefore, PC biosolids may be applied based on the agronomic rate. The agronomic rate for biosolids is a rate that is designed to provide the amount of nitrogen needed by a crop to attain a desired yield while minimizing the amount of nitrogen that will pass below the root zone of the crop to the groundwater.

Receiving Water Characteristics: The groundwater is reported to be approximately 11 feet below ground surface at an elevation of 4,362 feet and is reportedly of good quality.

Groundwater monitoring is not required for agricultural biosolids reuse sites.

Characteristics: The biosolids from TMWRF will be treated at the treatment plant to meet “Class B” standards for pathogen reduction. The volatile solids content will be reduced by at least 38% to meet vector attraction reduction requirements. The biosolids will be analyzed by TMWRF six times per year to insure metal concentrations required by 40 CFR Part 503 for PC biosolids are met. The results from both 2002 metal analyses have been below the pollutant concentration limits for exceptional quality and PC biosolids.

Flow: The application rate for the “Class B” biosolids will be based on the “Plant Available Nitrogen” from the biosolids and the nitrogen requirement of the crop being grown. The Applicant included a 30-day average flow of discharge of 4,650 cubic yards, which places this project in the largest reuse of sewage sludge fee category, 20,000 cubic yards or more.

Proposed Permit Limitations: The Permittee shall meet all of the requirements of 40 CFR Part 503, Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge. These requirements specify the quality of biosolids that can be applied and the restrictions on crops that can be grown. The biosolids application rate shall be determined by the agronomic rate.

TMWRF shall be responsible for the quality of the biosolids transported to the Lagomarsino Ranch.

Schedule of Compliance and Special Conditions: The Permittee shall implement and comply with the provisions of the schedule of compliance after approval by the Administrator, including in said implementation and compliance, any additions or modifications which the Administrator may make in approving the schedule of compliance. The Permittee shall implement and/or execute the following scheduled compliance requirements:

- a. Upon the effective date of this permit, the Permittee shall achieve compliance with the reuse limitations.
- b. The Permittee shall implement and comply with the provisions of the schedule of compliance after approval by the Administrator, including in said implementation and compliance, any additions or modifications which the Administrator may make in approving the schedule of compliance.
- c. Within ninety (90) days of the permit effective date, the Permittee shall submit an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual covering the use of the biosolids to the Division for review and approval.

There are no special conditions.

Rationale for Permit Requirements: Monitoring of the biosolids by TMWRF and of the application rate by the Applicant is required to protect the public and wildlife from pathogens that may be in the biosolids and to protect waters of the State from being degraded by the biosolids.

The reuse site shall be operated in accordance with the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual that must be approved by the Division.

Proposed Determination: The Division has made the tentative determination to issue the proposed permit for a period of five (5) years.

Procedures for Public Comment: The Notice of the Division's intent to issue a permit authorizing the facility to discharge to surface waters of the State of Nevada subject to the conditions contained within the permit is being sent to the **Mason Valley News** and the **Reno Gazette-Journal** for publication. The notice is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing for a period of 30 days following the date of publication of the public notice in the newspaper. The date and time by which all written comment must be postmarked or transmitted to the Division via facsimile or e-mail is 5:00 PM July 22, 2002. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX or any interested agency, person or group of persons. The request must be filed within the comment period, must indicate the interest of the person filing the request, and must state the reasons why a hearing is warranted. Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determined to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with NAC 445A.238.

The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to NRS 445A.605.

Prepared by: Bruce Holmgren
 June 2002